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ABSTRACT

In this book, a teacher shares his experiences after four decades of teaching, reaffirming the obligation to provide all students with the richest, most challenging, and best-crafted education possible. The book examines ways that teachers and children learn from one another, providing practical guideposts, insights, and a wide variety of approaches that have actually worked in classrooms, including those with students who have the most difficult lives. The book shows the growth that can occur when adults and children come together for the sake of learning and how schools can be transformed into places that respect and nurture children, meet high academic standards, and help students develop a sense of respect, compassion, and justice. There are five chapters. Chapter 1, "Setting Out," includes "To Not Know," "Listening and Learning," and "How Many Children?" Chapter 2, "Teaching Well in a Troubled System," includes "Excessive Socializing," "Business as Usual," and "Teaching Steady and Getting Angry." Chapter 3, "Teaching Beyond School," includes "Teaching Again--With a Difference," "Serendipity Strikes," and "Teaching Close Up." Chapter 4, "Teaching on the Edge," includes "Other Ways," "Theater and the Making of a Learning Community," "Growing a School," and "Graduating to Kindergarten." Chapter 5, "Fresh Waters are Ever Flowing," includes "Alder Creek," "Building a World," and "Culture Skirmishes." A final section is entitled, "'To the Foot from its Child': Teaching as the Discipline of Hope." (SM)

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